

# INFORMATION REPORT      INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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### C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L      PROCESSING COPY

|                   |  |             |                       |
|-------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| COUNTRY           | Czechoslovakia   | REPORT      |                       |
| SUBJECT           | Radiation Accidents (spilling of radioactive materials at Metallurgical Research Institute; radioactive sand used in apartment construction) | DATE DISTR. | 16 APR 1958      25X1 |
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| DATE OF INFO.     |  |             | 25X1                  |
| PLACE & DATE ACQ. |  |             |                       |

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1.  report describing a radiation accident which occurred in the Metallurgical Research Institute in Prague in 1954 and an incident which occurred in Prague in 1957 when newly built apartment houses were found to be unsafe for occupancy because radioactive sand was used in the construction.

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USAF review completed.

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| (Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".) |                                     |      |                                     |      |                                     |     |                                     |     |                                     |     |                                     |  |                          |  |                          |

# INFORMATION REPORT      INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

25X1

COUNTRY: Czechoslovakia

DATE: 12 March 1958

SUBJECT: Radiation Accidents in Czechoslovakia

PAGES: 2

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Radiation Accidents in Czechoslovakia1954

1. The Metallurgical Research Institute (Vyzkumny Ustav Kovu) in Prague used radioirridium to radiograph metals; [redacted] it had strong radiation powers, probably several curies. In 1954, when a technician of the Institute spilled this radioactive material and contaminated his clothes, he exposed his family and all visitors to his house -- a total of about 40 people. Members of the Institute of Industrial Hygiene and Diseases tested the people and the neighborhood houses with Geiger-Mueller counters and found large amounts of radioactivity. The "strong sources", about 20 people, were hospitalized for at least one month in the Hospital for Industrial Medicine. The others were isolated until their radioactivity decreased to a safe level. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the doctors probably used vitamin B, streptomycin and penicillin for the treatment; he also believed that the exposed people had had rather high doses but he did not know of any deaths, although he assumed that some were hopeless cases. Nothing was published concerning this accident. It was forbidden to discuss it. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1

1957

2. In early 1957, an incident occurred with newly built apartment houses which had been completed at the end of 1956 in Prague-Strasnice. The mortar used for the construction of the houses contained sand which came either from places located near uranium mines or from other places of high radioactivity. This was the rumored reason for measuring the radioactivity of the new buildings with instruments of the Institute of Industrial Hygiene. The results showed that the occupancy of these houses would be unsafe and therefore no tenants were permitted to move in. Nothing was published about this incident in spite of very strong protests made by the prospective tenants. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted]

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